

*By the Senate, March 9th, 1840.*

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:*

We have received your message in regard to the bill for the regulation of the municipal government of Howard District of Anne Arundel county. We are glad to find that in all of the amendments except one you have concurred. We were anxious that the election of the commissioners for the district should be made by the people, because of the great amount of the expenses necessarily to be borne by them in the erection of the public buildings. For this reason it was believed that it was more important that the board now to be chosen should be composed of men who have the entire confidence of the people, than it will be some years hence. The taxes to be paid by them at once and for some years, will perhaps be found more onerous than was anticipated by those who are to bear them, and it would perhaps be more satisfactory to them if those taxes were imposed by men of their own choice, than by persons chosen for them either by the Legislature or the Executive.

The other amendments to which you have agreed were to supply defects in the bill which occurred to the committee in this body.

We are of opinion that there are reasons which ought to induce your honorable body to reconsider your vote on, and to adopt the other amendments, which we regret to learn was not accepted by you.

The sheriff has been very recently chosen by the people, and by that choice they have expressed their confidence in him. The office of sheriff in that district, for this and some years to come, will be of very little value, and it may well be believed that the interest taken by the people in that election was occasioned in a great measure by a belief that he would be appointed collector of the public dues. In many of the counties it is the practice to appoint the sheriff also the collector. But a few years since it is believed that the then sheriff of Anne Arundel county was about to resign his office because he was not also made collector, and on the ground that the emoluments of the office of sheriff in the whole of Anne Arundel county were not sufficient to induce any man qualified for that office to hold it. If this was true in regard to the office when the officer was entitled to its entire profits, how much more correct must it be, in regard to an officer chosen to perform the sheriffs duties, and to receive the sheriffs profits in but a part of the county, and in that portion of it too in which the first suit is yet to be brought.

We do assure you that if we had any reason to believe that the appointment in the manner you suggest was the desire of the people of that district, we should cheerfully carry the desire into effect, but for the reasons we have stated, we adhere to our amendment which you rejected. We are induced to return the bill, and respectfully ask you to reconsider and adopt the amendments which you have rejected.

By order,

Jos. H. Nicholson, clerk.